## REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Ву

John C. Holmar

Re**g.** No. **2**2,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004-2201 (202) 638-6666

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JCH/gc